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A.—(*a*) The Government have no information other than that conveyed in a letter from the hon. Member containing a statement to this effect.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Board of Revenue has been asked to report what action has been taken in regard to the disposal of the lands. The suggestions of the hon. Member will be considered on receipt of the Board's report.

(*d*) The memorial referred to has been received. The suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered on receipt of the Board's report.

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—"May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether proselytisation work is going on in the North Arcot district and whether the Collector is attempting to dispose of a large extent of land only to those who are likely to get converts to Christianity ?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—"I cannot answer that question without verifying the facts on the point."

Poramboke lands transferred to ayan in North Arcot district.

*205 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(*a*) to lay on the table a statement showing the extent of tank-bed, grazing ground, poramboke and other communal lands transferred to ayan and assigned either to members of the depressed classes or ex-military men in the past five years in the North Arcot district ; and

(*b*) to state whether the Government will be pleased to direct the Collector of North Arcot to examine the cases of transfer to ayan and cancel them wherever objectionable ?

A.—(*a*) There is no existing return which shows the particulars desired. They would have to be specially compiled ; and Government are not aware of any reason why such compilation should be undertaken.

(*b*) Transfers of poramboke land to ayan are sanctioned by the Collector. The Government have no reason to think that such transfers have been effected without adequate grounds and therefore are unable to issue the instructions suggested.

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—"May I ask the hon. Revenue Member whether in view of the fact that the present Collector of North Arcot has assigned a large extent of grazing porambokes and other lands to depressed classes men and ex-military men, and to the 'flock' of one Reverend Paul, and that it has caused tangible inconvenience to the caste ryots of the locality, he will be pleased to call for an exhaustive report ?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—"I have already answered that question."

Assignment of lands in Settigunta village in Rajampet taluk.

*206 Q.—Mr. A. Parasurama Rao : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have granted the assignment of a large extent of land to Messrs. Best & Co. in Settigunta village of Rajampet taluk, Cuddapah district ;

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(*b*) if so, what is the extent, and what are the conditions, under which the grant was made;

(*c*) whether there was any opposition at the time of the grant by the villagers and how the opposition was disposed of;

(*d*) whether Messrs. Best & Co. have improved the land after assignment and if so, how;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Vijayaraghavalu Chetti of Madras applied for the assignment of about 350 acres of land in the same village of Settigunta and whether a portion of the land applied for was granted after considerable hesitation;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that this Vijayaraghavulu Chetti has improved another piece of land granted to him some years ago at a cost of about Rs. 80,000 by raising a beautiful fruit garden with mechanical appliances for watering, etc.; and

(*g*) whether there is any difference in the rules regarding the grant of lands to Europeans and to Indians; if so, what they are?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) In order to secure cheap and adequate production of avaram bark and thus encourage the tanning industry in the Presidency the Government, in March 1918, authorized the Collectors of certain districts, including Cuddapah, to assign waste lands at the disposal of the Government for avaram cultivation under Board's Standing Order No. 19, subject to the conditions specified in the annexure [a] to this answer. In accordance with these orders, the Collector of Cuddapah, in an order of April 1919, assigned 927·94 acres of land in Settigunta village to Messrs. Best & Co., for avaram cultivation. In July 1923 the Government, on the recommendation of the Director of Industries, the Collector and the Board of Revenue, extended for five years from 1st July 1923 the period for the cultivation of the 500 acres which then remained uncultivated and sanctioned the exemption from assessment of this area for a further period of five years.

(*c*) The Government are not aware of any such opposition. No representation on the subject was made to the Government.

(*d*) In May 1923 the Collector reported that the company had planted about four hundred acres with avaram and that all except 100 acres had been cleared of the forest growth. The Government have no later information.

(*e*) In 1925 Mr. P. Vijayaraghavalu Chetti applied to the Collector of Cuddapah for the assignment under the darkhast rules of 399·85 acres of land in Settigunta village for the cultivation of food-grains and fruit-bearing trees under improved methods. The Collector considered it objectionable to assign the western portion of the land which contains a kunta and tree growth protecting the springs which flow through the kunta and sanctioned the assignment of 125 acres in the southern half of the eastern portion, which extent he considered ample for the economic development of the scheme. On a memorial from Mr. Vijayaraghavalu Chetti the Government, after a careful

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a Printed as Appendix IV on page 413 infra.

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examination of the case, sanctioned the assignment of about 250 acres, being the whole of the eastern portion with the exception of a channel to the south.

(*f*) The Government are not aware whether the case is as stated.

(*g*) The answer is in the negative.

Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO :—" In regard to the answer given to clause (*c*), am I to understand the hon. Member to mean that there was no opposition at all by the villagers at the time or that no such opposition was brought to the notice of the Government at the time ? May I ask whether he will be pleased to enquire into this aspect of the matter ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not propose to enquire now whether there was opposition by the villagers to the grant of land made by the Government in the year 1919."

Reservation of lands for assignment to depressed classes.

* 207 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state the proposals under the consideration of the Government for modifying the present system of reserving lands for assignment to members of the depressed classes so as to permit more thorough inspections and enquiries after assignment ?

A.—The Commissioner of Labour has recently suggested certain proposals on which the Government await a report from the Board of Revenue.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" The answer given to this question is 'The Commissioner of Labour has recently suggested certain proposals on which the Government await a report from the Board of Revenue.' My question was to ask what the proposals were."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The proposals were described in full when a similar question was answered on the floor of this House."

Landlord and Tenant

Amending Bill to the Estates Land Act of 1908.

* 208 *Q.*—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) at what stage the amending Bill to the Estates Land Act of 1908 now is ; and

(*b*) when the Government are going to introduce the same in the Council ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to Legislative Council Question No. 18.

Alleged memorial from Parlakimedi ryots against sanction for record of rights.

* 209 *Q.*—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of petitions received from the ryots of Parlakimedi estate complaining against the sanction for record of rights and settlement under Chapter XI of the Estates Land Act of 1908 ;